

9501192

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Grossnickle Farm (tenant farm) Survey Number: F-4-109

Project: Replace Harmony Road Bridge Agency: FHWA/Frederick County

Site visit by MHT Staff: no ☒ yes Name Elizabeth Hannold Date 2/17/95

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility **not** recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the available information, the Grossnickle Farm (tenant farm) appears to be eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C, along with the adjacent Grossnickle Farm (main farm) property. The tenant farm, located on the east side of Harmony Road, above the Little Catoctin Creek just north of I-70, includes a late 19th century frame house, late 19th century frame stable, frame out-kitchen and frame shed. Facing the tenant farm, on the west side of Little Catoctin Creek lies the Grossnickle Farm main farm complex which includes a mid 19th century brick house, mid 19th century frame forebay bank barn, a c. 1920s rock-faced concrete block dairy and milk house, stone out-kitchen, spring house and various sheds. The two properties are visually connected, sharing a small valley which is defined by topography and enclosed by two major roads. In addition, they are linked historically by common ownership. The Grossnickle Farm complex is significant as a well-preserved rural complex which retains the full compliment of domestic and agricultural buildings and which clearly expresses the main farm-tenant farm relationship. The modest, three-bay, frame tenant house contrasts with the substantial, eight-bay, brick house of the main farm. While the tenant farm would not be individually eligible, the tenant and main farm together are significant. The main farm house, with its recessed double porch along part of the front elevation is an important regional type from the c. 1840-1870 period. The agricultural buildings reflect the process of change over time in farming in this area, from general crop farming to a concentration on dairy farming in the early 20th century. The property appears to retain a high level of integrity.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MHT Inventory forms F- and F-

Prepared by: Paula S. Reed

Elizabeth Hannold  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/7/95

Date

NR program concurrence: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable

Orlando Robins + v

Reviewer, NR program

July 12, 1995.

Date

Survey No. F-4-169

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT**

**I. Geographic Region:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
<input type="checkbox"/>	Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown Period ( <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> historic)	

**III. Prehistoric Period Themes:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Subsistence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Settlement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Political
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demographic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Adaption

**IV. Historic Period Themes:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government/Law
<input type="checkbox"/>	Military
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Educational/Cultural
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation

**V. Resource Type:**

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic--single dwelling, Domestic--secondary  
structure, Agriculture--processing, Agriculture--storage, Agriculture--field,  
Agriculture--animal facility, Agriculture--outbuilding

Known Design Source: none

## Capsule Summary

F-4-109

Grossnickle Farm, Tenant House, G.W. Summers Farm, Oakland Mills  
east side Harmony Road, south side Little Catoctin Creek  
Middletown, MD

1875-1900

This complex consists of a frame two story, three bay house covered with asbestos shingle siding, a frame stable, a frame shed and a summer kitchen. The buildings are located on the east side of Harmony Road where it curves around the complex and proceeds toward Little Catoctin Creek which it crosses about ¼ mile north of these buildings. The buildings are modest in size and elaboration and appear to date from the late 19th century. The house faces north, toward the site of a mill which once stood along Little Catoctin Creek. The complex does not appear on the 1858 Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County, or the 1873 C.O. Titus Atlas of Frederick County.

This complex is a modest rural vernacular group dating from the late 19th century. As a unit the complex represents a small farmstead that displays rural vernacular traditions late in the 19th century. It is associated with the Oakland Mill complex which included the mill, now gone and the larger farmstead across Harmony Road.

The farmstead is representative of late 19th century rural complexes in Frederick County. Taken as part of the larger Val Creek Farm complex or earlier Oakland Mill complex, this secondary house and associated outbuildings complete the scene of a significant 19th century agricultural grouping in Frederick County.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-109

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Grossnickle Farm, Tenant House, G.W. Summers Farm, Oakland Mills  
and/or common Val Creek Farm

### 2. Location

street & number east side Harmony Road, south side Little Catoctin Creek ☐ not for publication  
city, town Middletown ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district 6  
state Maryland ☐ county Frederick

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district)	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. James P. Grossnickle  
street & number 9120 Harmony Road telephone no.:  
city, town Middletown state and zip code Maryland 21769

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse Liber 482  
street & number West Patrick Street Folio 184  
city, town Frederick state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A  
date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local  
depository for survey records  
city, town ☐ state

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☒ excellent    ☐ deteriorated  
☐ good        ☐ ruins  
☐ fair         ☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

This complex consists of a frame two story, three bay house covered with asbestos shingle siding, a frame stable, a frame shed and a summer kitchen. The buildings are located on the east side of Harmony Road where it curves around the complex and proceeds toward Little Catoctin Creek which it crosses about ¼ mile north of these buildings. The buildings are modest in size and elaboration and appear to date from the late 19th century. The house faces north, toward the site of a mill which once stood along Little Catoctin Creek. The complex does not appear on the 1858 Isaac Bond Map of Frederick County, or the 1873 C.O. Titus Atlas of Frederick County.

### General Description

The house appears to be a light frame structure. It rests on high stone foundations. Windows have six over six light sash and the entrance is in the central bay of the front elevation. A shed-roofed porch extends across the front. Chimneys are located inside the end walls. The roofing material is standing seam sheet metal.

Placed immediately adjacent to Harmony Road's east edge is a small frame stable. It has a recessed forebay. It, like the house, probably dates from the late 19th century. Southwest of the house is a frame out-kitchen. A frame shed is located between the house and stable.

The complex is located near the base of a slope. This slope and another opposing one on the opposite side of Little Catoctin Creek, form a narrow stream valley and makes the area appear secluded.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other(specify)	
Specific dates	1875-1900	Bulider/Architect	unknown		
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D					
and/or					
Applicable Exceptions: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G					
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local					

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

This complex is a modest rural vernacular group dating from the late 19th century. As a unit the complex represents a small farmstead that displays rural vernacular traditions late in the 19th century. It is associated with the Oakland Mill complex which included the mill, now gone and the larger farmstead across Harmony Road.

### **Historic Context**

Frederick County and central Maryland in general were settled during the second half of the 18th century although there were habitations in the region as early as the 1730s. Although land was initially held by English entrepreneurs from eastern Maryland, the majority of settlers who actually lived in Frederick County were Germans who had migrated south from Pennsylvania. The area developed into a prime agricultural region with emphasis on the production of small grains. With grain farming dominating, related industries and transportation networks soon developed. Grist and flour milling was prevalent, as was distilling. Central Maryland along with south central Pennsylvania grew in importance as an agricultural region. In Maryland, Frederick and adjoining Washington County led the state in wheat and corn production throughout most of the 19th century. The allure of the agricultural prosperity of central Maryland influenced Robert E. Lee's plan to invade Maryland in the late summer of 1862. The greater region was the nation's bread basket until large scale grain production in the midwest overtook local production in the later 19th century.

### **Resource History**

This small farmstead does not appear on either the 1858 or 1873 maps of Frederick County. According to the 1873 Frederick County Atlas map, this land, on both sides of Little Catocin Creek was owned by G.W. Summers, who also owned the mill, recorded as Oakland Mill, near this house. This farmstead was part of the larger farm and mill complex owned by G.W. Summers. Today it remains as part of the same property as the farmstead identified on the opposite side of the creek and road, known as Val Creek Farm. It was probably built during ownership of George W. Summers or his son Joshua which was from 1861 to 1909. Another possibility is that this parcel is the "house and lot," part of the mill property, purchased by George W. Summers from Charlotte Kinna in 1866 (Liber JWLC 4, folio 533). The fact that it is not depicted on the 1873 map is not a critical factor since this

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Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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building is a secondary structure to the mill and main farm complex.

## Resource Evaluation

The farmstead is representative of late 19th century rural complexes in Frederick County. Taken as part of the larger Val Creek Farm complex or earlier Oakland Mill complex, this secondary house and associated outbuildings complete the scene of a significant 19th century agricultural grouping in Frederick County.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-4-109

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

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### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont (Frederick County)

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architectural/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Agricultural/Subsistence/animal facility

Known Design Source: Vernacular




Survey No. F-4-109

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

Acreage of nominated property Five acres + or -

Quadrangle name Middletown

Quadrangle scale 1:24.000

A  Zone Easting Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing
1	1	1
2	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5
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100	100	100

D

[illegible]

F

[illegible]

From the north edge of I-70 at the 500-foot contour line as shown on the USGS quad sheet for the Middletown Quad, and following the contour line for 1000 feet, then turning due north and extending to reach the east side of Harmony Road, then following Harmony Road south to I-70, then following the north edge of I-70 to the place of beginning.

state	Maryland	code	county	Frederick	code
state		code	county		code

name/title	Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian
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organization Preservation Associates, Inc.

date 5/14/96

street & number 19942 Lehmans Mill Road

telephone 301-791-7880

city or town      Hagerstown

state	Maryland	21742
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
People's Resource Center  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7000

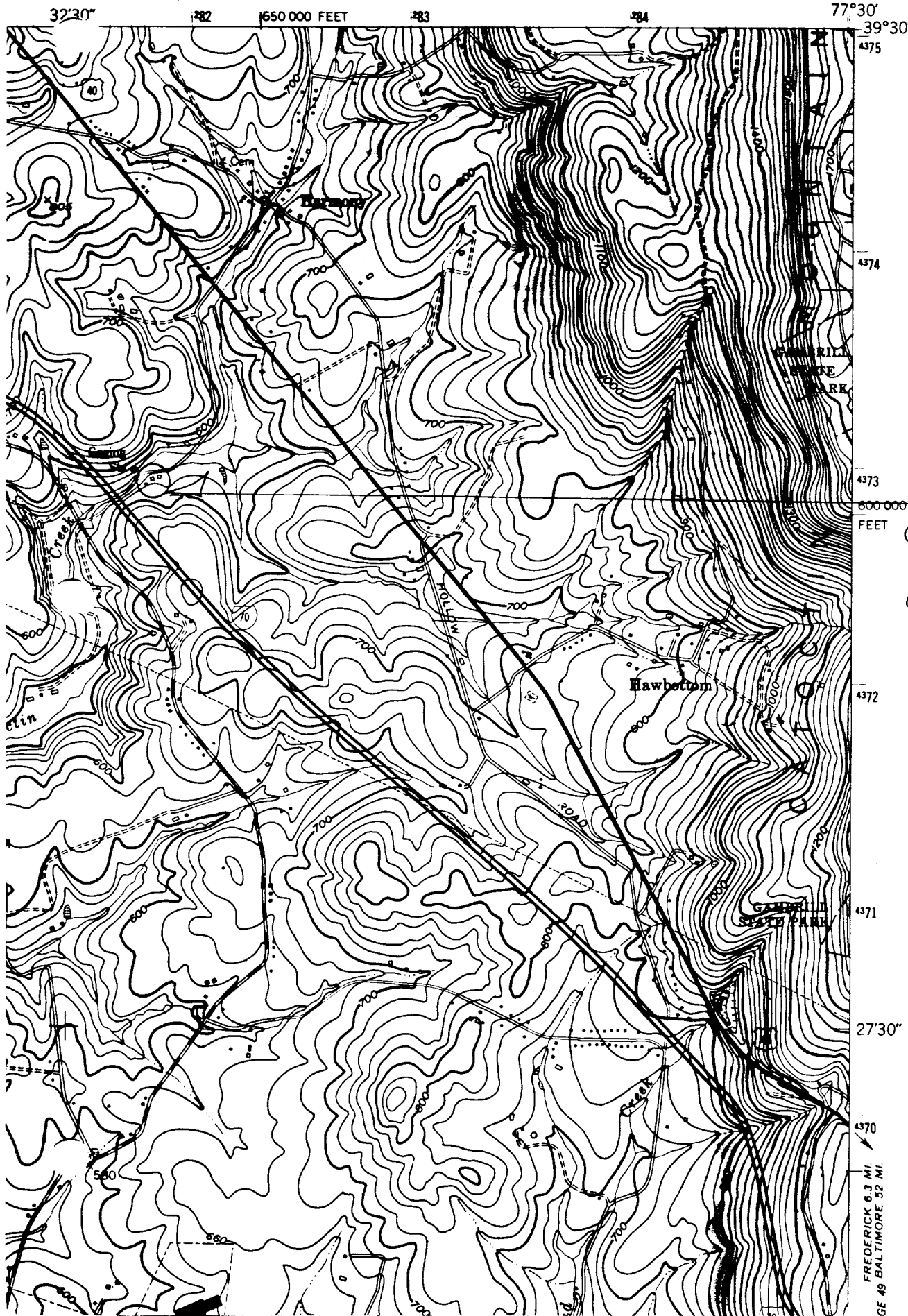
F-4-108  
F-4-109  
MIDDLETOWN VICINITY  
FREDERICK CO. MD.



Site Plan  
Harmony Rd Bridge Project Area  
Frederick Co., MD  
Not to Scale

MIDDLETOWN QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5563 III SW  
(CATOCTIN FURNACE)



F-4-109  
GROSSNICKLE FARM  
TENANT HOUSE  
OAKLAND MILLS  
E/S HARMONY RD  
N/S I-70  
MIDDLETOWN VIC  
FREDERICK CO

FREDERICK 6.3 MI.  
GE 49 BALTIMORE 52 MI.



SURVEY NO. F-4-109

Farmstead. GROSSWICKLE FARM, TENANT HOUSE, G.W. SUMMERS FARM  
Frederick County MD. OAKLAND MILLS

Photo by P. Reed, 4/95 (NEGATIVE LOCATION, PRESERVATION ASSOC INC.)

S. View



House, GROSSWICKLE FARM, TENANT HOUSE, G.W. SUMMERS FARM

Fredrick County, MD

OAKLAND MILLS

photo by P. Reed 4/95 (NEGATIVE LOCATION, PRESERVATION ASSOC. INC.)

SE View





Stable,

GROSSVICKLE FARM, TENANT HOUSE

Fredrick County, MD

B.W. SUMMERS FARM

OAKLAND MILLS

photo by P. Rees 4/95 (NEGATIVE LOCATION, PRESERVATION ASSOC. INC.)

SE View